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## SEJM PASSES NEW LAND TAX

TO PROTECT SMALL LANDOWNERS -- Warsaw Polska Zbrojna, 13 Jul 50

The Sejm passed a new law on land taxes intended to protect the interests of small- and medium-size landholders. Farmsteads are defined by the law as the total area of land located in one gmina /smallest territorial administrative unit/ owned and used by members of the immediate family.

The whole country is divided into three economic regions and each region is divided into four economic zones, municipal, suburban, rural, and distant rural. The economic zones are divided into four types, arable land, meadows, pastures, and forests. These in turn are divided into six classes of soil.

Income from these lands will be figured in zlotys instead of in quintals of wheat. Well-to-do farmers will be taxed up to 20 percent on their yearly income while the small landowners will pay only 2 percent.

The law also provides for tax exemptions, particularly for farmers having many children. A family with eight children is totally tax-exempt provided its annual income is not over 260,000 zlotys. Large exemptions are also allowed for farmers who supply hogs and industrial crops to socialized purchase centers on contract. Settlers on small- and medium-size farms, producers cooperatives, and State Farms receive exemptions on worthless land, untilled fallow land, and farmsteads not yet fully equipped.

Citizens' Tax Commissions, composed of small- and medium-size landowners, will now replace the gmina commissions and gmina delegates. The duties of the new commissions will be to see that rich farmers are taxed fully to locate hidden sources of income, and to protect the interests of small- and mediumsize landholders.

VILLAGE ELECTRIFICATION PLAN GOES TO SEJM -- Warraw Polska Zbrojna, 28 Jun 50

The plan for a general electrification of villages and communities is before the Sejm. Since this will require considerable expenditures, the state will furnish the larger portion of financial aid for the project.

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All owners or tenants of buildings covered by the general electrification plan are divided into three groups.

Group I covers workers, landless peasants, and owners or tenants of individual farmsteads with an estimated annual income of 140,000 zlotys, as well as payers of the turnover or income taxim the 140,000-zloty bracket. Three electrical outlets will be set up for members of this group. According to state rates, the installation costs will be 67,000 zlotys per farmstead.

Group II includes owners or tenants of farmsteads whose income is between 140,000 and 280,000 zlotys, and payers of income or turnover taxes in the 140,000 to 280,000 zloty bracket. Members of this group are entitled to four electrical outlets including one in a farm livestock building. Installation costs, according to state rates, will amount to 81,000 zlotys.

Group III includes owners of farmsteads with over 280,000-zloty income. Members of this group are entitled to five electrical outlets including one in a farm livestock building. Installation cost amounts to 84,200 zlotys.

In an average Polish community, there will be 80 owners or tenants whose buildings will be covered by the general electrification program. Out of this number, 54 belong to group I, 18 to group II, and 8 in group III. Each in group I will have to pay 13,500-24,500 zlotys -- depending on their income -- as their share of expenses. Each in group II will have to pay 26,500-48,000 zlotys. Each in group III will have to pay 53,700-121,000 zlotys. The actual average electrification cost for a community will be 5,760,000 zlotys. Farmers will pay 2,190,000 zlotys or 38 percent of the cost and the state 3,570,000 zlotys or 62 percent of the cost.

Farmers will receive easy credit terms to make their payments. Payments will be made over a period of 3 years, two payments each year. The poorest farmers will pay 2,250 zlotys and the rich farmers 20,000 zlotys.

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